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H I P A A L E R T - l i t e    October 3, 2001

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H I P A A n e w s

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\*\*\* HPP: Transactions Delay Would Threaten Patient Privacy \*\*\*

On September 21, the Health Privacy Project responded to a Congressional inquiry on how a delay in the HIPAA Transactions compliance deadline would impact the HIPAA privacy regulation. In a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy, Janlori Goldman, Director of the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University's Institute for Health Care Research and Policy, described the Transactions, Privacy and Security Rules as so interrelated that a delay in Transactions compliance would directly affect compliance with patient privacy and information security mandates.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.htm#1002delay>

\*\*\* DHHS Sec. Thompson: Trans. Compliance Delay Unlikely \*\*\*

Delay in HIPAA electronic standards' October 2002 compliance date is unlikely to pass Congress, DHHS Secretary Thompson said Sept. 27 at a National Association of Manufacturers meeting. The Senate Finance Committee is seeking a one-year delay in transaction and code set implementation only, but any delay is opposed by Sen. Kennedy (D-Mass.) because it may also push back privacy regs. A March bill to replace the privacy rule (HR 1215), introduced by Rep. Greenwood (R-Penn.), has been referred to the House Judiciary/Crime Subcommittee.

\*\*\* AHA, Others Now Oppose Efforts to Delay Trans. Standards \*\*\*

AHA and other national hospital organizations have urged the DHHS not to support, and several House and Senate committees not to enact pending legislation that would delay indefinitely

transaction standards and other non-privacy related provisions of HIPAA. The organizations said in a letter today that the delay would unfairly penalize hospitals and health systems that have made significant financial and staff resource commitments to meet the compliance date. The letter also says that because of the potential for long-term efficiencies and cost savings, Congress should not delay the electronic transactions standards indefinitely beyond the October 2002 compliance date. While recognizing that some facilities may need time beyond October 2002 to bring themselves up to full compliance, the letter states that those concerns are best addressed by having DHHS grant hospitals flexibility in complying with these HIPAA regulations.  
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/2001/0927aha.htm>

\*\*\* Push for Increased Surveillance Powers Worries EPIC &  
Other Privacy Advocates \*\*\*

Arguing that the country is under a continuing threat from terrorists equipped with technology never envisioned in existing law, the Washington Post reports Attorney General John Ashcroft has asked Congress for broader surveillance powers in all criminal investigations. Privacy advocates worry that the measure might short-circuit constitutional safeguards. The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) on Monday urged careful consideration of proposals that could significantly erode Internet privacy and constitutional rights.  
<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/2001/0926epic.htm>

\*\*\* Medicare Contractors Put On Notice to Meet Transactions  
Rule Deadline \*\*\*

Tom Scully, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as HCFA, testified on Sept. 25 that CMS will meet the Transactions Standards deadline of October, 2002. In a hearing of the House Ways and Means Health subcommittee on Medicare Regulatory relief, Scully began his testimony by saying that CMS not only expects to be compliant with the Transaction Standards rule by October 2002, but also expects entities that contract or work with CMS to be compliant by the deadline. As reported by the Coalition of Health Information Policy (CHIP), Health Subcommittee staff described Scully's announcement "as a very clear challenge to the proponents of a delay on this and other HIPAA rules." CHIP represents an array of healthcare information systems professionals and organizations, including AHIMA, AMIA, CHIM, and HIMSS.

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## H I P A A l a t e s t

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### NEW IN HIPAAZINE:

\*\* Miracle Cure? \*\*

A federal health care mandate could generate billions in technology revenue, but don't get too giddy just yet.

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/Hipaazine.htm#0925zd>

### NEW IN HIPAATECH:

Wrangle Over Electronic Privacy Issues During Wartime

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/tech/index.htm#0926vv>

It's Time for Wireless Security Policies: Secrets in the Air

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/tech/index.htm#0917cw>

Securing Your Network from Hackers: Get to Know the Enemy

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/tech/index.htm#0921tr>

### NEW IN HIPAACTION:

The Long Arm of HIPAA: Extending Privacy Regulations to Business Associates

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/privacy/index.htm#0924trustee>

### ON THE CALENDAR:

OCTOBER -

COMING UP IN TWO WEEKS:

Securely HIPAA Fall Audioconference Series

Session 2: Security Implementation for the Non-Technical Manager  
Wednesday, October 17, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. EDT

For more information & to sign up:

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/ezcart/index.cfm>

NOVEMBER -

"Practical Solutions for HIPAA Compliance"  
November 15, 2001  
Renaissance Meadowlands Hotel, Rutherford, NJ

HospITech Solutions  
<http://www.hospitechsolutions.com/HIPAAconference.htm>

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HIPAAAlert-lite is our weekly version of HIPAAAlert, Phoenix Health Systems' acclaimed monthly e-mail newsletter.

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Our Other HIPAA resources:  
Web site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com>  
HIPAAlive Discussion List: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/>  
HIPAAnotes Weekly Byte of HIPAA: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/notes/>

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